

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6984

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 17211

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, UK

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN BUT NEWS RECEIVED WITH
CAUTION

SUMMARY - UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELEASED OCTOBER 26 BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT (DE), SHOWING A SUBSTANTIAL
DECREASE IN THE NUMBER WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED AND THE NUMBER
OF UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL-LEAVERS, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH
CAUTION IN THE PRESS WHICH WARNS AGAINST PLACING TOO

MUCH EMPHASIS ON ONE MONTH'S IMPROVEMENT, BEARING IN MIND
THE PRESENT PERILOUS STATE OF THE UK ECONOMY. THE MOST
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OPTIMISTIC VIEWPOINT TAKEN IS THAT UNEMPLOYMENT MAY AT

LEAST BE LEVELLING OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK DECREASED OVER THE MONTH TO OCTOBER 14 BY 78,595 TO 1,377,110 OR 5.8 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND, THE TOTAL FELL BY 74,192 TO 1,320,923 OR 5.7 PERCENT, INCLUDING A DECREASE OF 64,344 TO 77,957 IN THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL-LEAVERS.

2. EXCLUDING SCHOOL-LEAVERS, THE GREAT BRITAIN UNEMPLOYED TOTAL DECREASED BY 9,848 TO 1,242,966, WHICH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WAS A FALL OF 11,900 TO 1,253,100 OR 5.4 PERCENT. ON AVERAGE OVER THE THREE MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL INCREASED BY 3,000 A MONTH, COMPARED WITH 20,000 A MONTH OVER THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER, 19,000 A MONTH OVER BOTH THE THREE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST AND JULY, 9,000 A MONTH DURING

THE SECOND QUARTER AND APPROXIMATELY 40,000 DURING THE FIRST QUARTER.

3. A LESS THAN ENCOURAGING ASPECT OF THE LATEST FIGURES WAS A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS WHICH OVER THE MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 8 FELL BY 1,634 TO 137,713. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, THIS WAS A DECREASE OF 2,400 TO 124,300. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FELL BY 2,935 TO 22,661. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS A FURTHER FALL IN THE NUMBER OF THOSE ON SHORT-TIME WORKING, FROM APPROXIMATELY 65,000 IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO ABOUT 30,000 IN MID-OCTOBER.

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